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Country programme document

Republic of Moldova

Summary

The country programme document (CPD) for the Republic of Moldova is presented to the Executive Board for discussion and approval at the present session, on a no-objection basis. The CPD includes a proposed aggregate indicative budget of $4,575,000 from regular resources, subject to the availability of funds, and $12,933,000 in other resources, subject to the availability of specific-purpose contributions, for the period 2018 to 2022.

In accordance with Executive Board decision 2014/1, the present document reflects comments made by Executive Board members on the draft CPD that was shared 12 weeks before the second regular session of 2017.

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Programme rationale

1. The Republic of Moldova is a lower-middle-income economy, the poorest in Europe in per capita terms.[1] The country's gross domestic product (GDP) saw a 7 per cent expansion in 2010 and a 0.5 per cent contraction in 2015, and employment has remained low, at just 40 per cent.[2] Child poverty, at 13 per cent, continues to be higher than the general poverty rate of 11 per cent.[3] Meanwhile, an aging population, a high level of out-migration, and a large informal economy (about one third of the work force is employed informally[2]) affect the Government's fiscal space for social services for children.

2. A number of policy reforms in the last decade engendered some progress towards the realization of child rights, especially deinstitutionalization, inclusive education and maternal and child health, with increasing resources being invested in these areas. The financial flow for childcare services increased, providing alternatives to placement in institutions. Monthly allowance for children in adoption and foster care increased by 15 per cent in 2015. Since 2012, a new funding formula ensured that 2 per cent of the State education budget is dedicated to inclusive education, leading to a significant progress in the integration of children with disabilities into mainstream schools. Support to youth-friendly health services is seeing incremental State co-funding, with these services fully financed through the National Health Insurance Company.

3. Social development and inclusion have been affected by governance instability, a weakening economy, a polarized society and prevailing harmful social norms, beliefs and practices. There have been several changes of government between 2014 and 2016, a fact that severely constrained the functioning of the State and slowed down the implementation of reforms. In 2015, the trust of the population in public institutions fell below 7 per cent.[4] These factors contributed to increasing child deprivations and inequities, as manifested in persistent abandonment and placement of children in institutions, limited access to child-friendly justice, a high percentage (8 per cent) of children still not attending primary school[5] and a high prevalence of violence against children.

4. The 2016 UNICEF Situation Analysis identified the most vulnerable groups as children from families living in poverty, children with disabilities, Roma children, and children left behind by migrant parents. The urban-rural divide and disparities among wealth quintiles in several child development outcomes persist. The preschool enrolment rate in rural villages continues to lag behind that of urban areas; in 2015, the gap was a full 33 percentage points.[5] While 75 per cent of the urban population uses flush toilets, only 9 per cent of the rural population has access to them. Whereas 3 per cent of children from the richest quintile are stunted, 11 per cent of children from the poorest quintile face chronic undernutrition.[6]

5. In 2015, infant and child mortality rates were 9.7 and 11.7 per 1,000 live births, respectively. An estimated 20 per cent of child deaths occur at home or within 24 hours of hospitalization (such as deaths from acute respiratory infections and injuries). Such deaths

[1] World Bank Group, *Moldova: Paths to Sustained Prosperity: A Systematic Country Diagnostic*, 2016.
[2] National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), *StatBank*, 2016.
[3] Ministry of Labour, Social Protection and Family, *2015 Annual Social Report*.
[4] Public Opinion Barometer, November 2015.
[5] NBS, *Education in the Republic of Moldova*, 2016.
[6] 2012 Moldova Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS), Chisinau, 2014.

can be prevented if timely health care is sought and provided.[7] Trends in other areas of child health also show stagnation or worsening. For example, child immunization rates are worsening[8] and anaemia prevalence among young children and women is persistently high.[9] Adolescents' reproductive health is poor, and sexually transmitted infections among youth are highly prevalent.[6] Roma girls continue to be subjected to child marriage and early childbearing.

6. The primary school net enrolment rate of 87 per cent is one of the lowest in the region,[9] and approximately half of 15-year-old children lack a basic level of proficiency in reading and mathematics. While the programme on inclusive education has led to significant results, 1,033 children with disabilities are assigned to special schools. Roma children's attendance rates are much lower at all levels of education, and they are more likely to drop out of school: only 52 per cent of Roma girls and 55 per cent of Roma boys receive primary education.[10]

7. High prevalence of child abandonment continues to impact vulnerable groups of children. About 2,200 children are in residential institutions (2015), and of these about one third are children with disabilities and one tenth are children below 3 years of age.[11] A similar situation has been recorded on the left bank of the Nistru River, where about 1,900 children live in institutions.[12] The high level of out-migration leads to prolonged family separation, with an estimated 21 per cent of the total child population having at least one biological parent abroad and 5 per cent living without both parents.[6]

8. Violence against children is widespread. Prevailing social norms stigmatize single mothers and pregnant adolescent girls, tolerate violence against children at home and in schools, and foster discrimination towards children and adolescents from vulnerable groups. An estimated 76 per cent of children, aged 2-14 years, experience violent disciplining at home, including psychological aggression, 48 per cent are subject to physical punishment.[6] During the 2014/2015 school year, educators reported 13,230 cases of abuse or violence against children. An estimated 1,334 cases of abuse of children were registered by the police, including cases of physical abuse and exploitation (28 per cent) and sexual abuse (26 per cent).[13]

9. Steady progress has been achieved in ensuring children's access to an equitable and child-sensitive justice system. However, crime prevention and reintegration services do not show comparable improvements. A recent UNICEF study reveals that, while the alternative to incarceration (diversion) is a legally adopted procedure, prosecutors and judges are still reluctant to apply it, and reintegration services at community level are not available. Negative social norms generally favour punishment of child offenders. In 2015, every seventh child offender was sentenced, and one in six sentenced children was imprisoned.[13][14] Half of the children who committed offences were below 14 years of age.

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[7] Ministry of Health, 2015, National Centre of Health Management, *Statistical Yearbook*, 2016.
[8] NBS, *StatBank*, 2016.
[9] UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2016.
[10] UNDP, UN-Women and UNICEF, *Roma in the Republic of Moldova in areas of their compact population*, 2013.
[11] NBS, *Transformative Monitoring for Enhanced Equity*, statistical template, 2016.
[12] Administrative statistics, Tiraspol, 2016.
[13] General Police Inspectorate Annual Report, 2015.
[14] Ibid.

10. Children in Moldova remain disproportionately poor, and the majority of poor families (86 per cent) live in rural areas.[15] The national poverty rate is 10 per cent. Families with three or more children have a poverty rate of 23 per cent, and families with one child have 8 per cent. In 2015, social protection spending amounted to 13 per cent of the GDP;[16] however, over 60 per cent is spent on pensions. The share of families with children receiving poverty-targeted social assistance within the Ajutor Social programme decreased from 84 per cent in 2009 to 42 per cent in 2015.[17] Both the incidence and the depth of poverty are twice as high among Roma children as among non-Roma children.[18]

11. Adolescents' participation in social life is low, as is their contribution to decision-making processes, both at home and in society. Only 16 per cent of young people aged 15-24 are willing to participate in solving community problems, and 42 per cent state they cannot participate because of "lack of time" or because they "do not know how to get involved".[19] A participatory approach towards either adults or children engaging in local public administration is absent.

12. Realizing children's rights will require building the capacity of local public authorities, improving the coverage of services, introducing specialized services by qualified professionals in rural areas, and strengthening intersectoral cooperation to achieve better outreach in the provision of comprehensive services to the most vulnerable children. Disaggregated data are needed, especially on critical issues, such as violence against children. Caregivers and children need to have much better knowledge of available support mechanisms as well as improved access to information. Simplifying the overly bureaucratic procedures for clients will go a long way towards making individuals more likely to seek services.

13. Over the past decade, natural hazards caused significant losses in agriculture, the country's main economic sector. Climate projections indicate that the probability of catastrophic drought in Moldova is increasing and will trigger competition for scarce water resources. Climate change impacts could therefore adversely affect food security and economic growth in vulnerable rural areas, further exacerbating poverty.

Programme priorities and partnerships

14. This country programme was developed based on the 2016 UNICEF Situation Analysis of Children in Moldova (which complemented the joint United Nations Common Country Assessment), the evaluations of the 2013–2017 UNICEF country programme and of the United Nations Partnership Framework, as well as the regional multi-country evaluations of five UNICEF programmes: child survival, family environment, the juvenile justice system, and early learning and school readiness. The country programme was also informed by a number of project evaluations, as well as over 30 UNICEF-supported assessments in specific areas of child vulnerabilities carried out between 2013 and 2016.

[15] Ministry of Economy, *Poverty in the Republic of Moldova 2015*.
[16] Ministry of Finance, *Global Resources and Expenditures Framework of the National Public Budget 2011–2017*.
[17] Ministry of Labour, Social Protection and Family, *2015 Annual Social Report*.
[18] UNDP, UN-Women and UNICEF, *Roma in the Republic of Moldova in areas of their compact population*, 2013.
[19] A Council of Europe policy review, *Child and youth participation in the Republic of Moldova*, 2013.

15. The country programme evaluation indicated that tangible results were obtained through evidence-based policy development, leveraging resources for children, and modelling. The evaluation recommended that more efforts be made to build the capacities of human rights institutions and local public authorities, to establish mechanisms for accountability, and to monitor the implementation of key policies and reforms related to child rights. Although communication for behaviour change strategies did promote a number of childcare practices, sharper focus on social mobilization is needed to address widespread harmful social norms, beliefs and practices, such as violent disciplining.

16. The planned outcomes and strategies for the new country programme were validated through a consultative process with the participation of the Government of the Republic of Moldova, the Ombudsperson for Child Rights, other United Nations agencies, civil society partners, and adolescents. Priority areas of engagement were identified taking into consideration major child deprivations, persisting inequities, and the lack of cohesive and concerted efforts to address the challenges faced by the most vulnerable groups such as children living in poverty and in rural areas, children with special needs, and Roma children.

17. Within the overall human rights agenda of the United Nations and major development partners, the focus of UNICEF remains on the realization of the rights of all children in Moldova and on the mobilization of key duty bearers towards coordinated action at national and subnational levels. The overarching goal of the country programme is to ensure that by 2022 all children of Moldova, especially the most vulnerable, enjoy their rights to education, health, an adequate standard of living, and participation, within a child-friendly legal environment, and are protected from abandonment, neglect, discrimination, exploitation and violence.

18. The priorities set for this country programme are aligned with national strategies, policies and programmes related to the realization of child rights and will contribute to the achievement of two outcomes of the 2018–2022 United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF): "Governance, Human Rights, and Gender Equality" and "Inclusive and Equitable Social Development". Programme results will contribute to the realization of six Sustainable Development Goals (Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 10 and 16) focusing on the reduction of inequality and child poverty, a healthy life and the well-being of children, inclusive and equitable quality education for all children, adequate access to child-friendly justice, and the accountability of institutions. The results will also contribute to four goal areas of the UNICEF Strategic Plan 2018–2021 (1, 2, 3 and 5): to prevent violence against children and ensure that every child has a fair chance to survive, thrive and learn in an equitable society.

19. Significant emphasis will be placed on providing continuous support to policy reforms, along with developing implementation models in selected districts to inform, scale up and strengthen the roles of key duty bearers at the subnational level, as part of the ongoing decentralization process. A stronger emphasis will be placed on changing harmful social norms through communication for behaviour change and social mobilization.

20. In order to strengthen state services, three key action areas were identified. First, the country programme will sharpen its focus on policy and legislative reforms to align national systems to the Sustainable Development Goals and to the concluding observations and recommendations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child. Second, the programme will redouble efforts to increase the efficiency and accountability of national systems in building the capacities of professionals, civil society and adolescents. Third, the programme will design and test viable models to demonstrate the feasibility of scaling up more comprehensive delivery of social services for children at community level, with a focus on

intersectoral cooperation. Selected evaluations during the last year of programme implementation will assess results on improving children's lives.

21. To address persisting inequities and barriers to the realization of child rights, the country programme will pursue two interlinked outcomes: (a) achieve equitable child-sensitive systems and services, and (b) mobilize duty bearers and rights holders towards social change for child rights. UNICEF will support the Government and other duty bearers to ensure that national systems and services respond to the needs of all children in an equitable way, and that society fulfils its obligations to protect, respect and ensure realization of the rights of all children. The programme will also support children and adolescents to claim their rights.

Equitable child-sensitive systems and services

22. Improved intersectoral cooperation in health, development, education and social protection will support a more comprehensive system of priority family-focused and child-centred services. Stronger communication for social change will facilitate greater attention to child growth and development, enrolment in pre-primary education and completion of lower-secondary education, prevention of violence, and child poverty alleviation and reduction. A robust intersectoral mechanism will be strengthened in selected districts to monitor, collect and use the data on vulnerable children for efficient child-sensitive programming.

23. This programme component will address child abandonment and institutionalization by strengthening the capacity of the child protection system to apply the principle of the best interests of the child. Social norms contributing to abandonment will be addressed, with additional efforts made to eliminate social stigma against children with disabilities, adolescent pregnancy, and single motherhood. In selected districts, UNICEF will provide technical support to the modelling of specialized foster care services at the community level, while promoting the elimination of the drivers of institutionalization through poverty alleviation programmes, parental education and specialized services for children with disabilities and for single mothers.

24. The programme will aim to reduce violence against children by raising awareness of community members, improving parenting skills to prevent violent disciplining, strengthening the intersectoral mechanism for detection and referral of cases at selected district levels, and building the capacity of social system professionals. UNICEF will support social mobilization to engage communities and children on combating violence against children by enabling them to prevent and report on violence at home and in school. Whole-schools approaches will contribute to preventing violence in schools and will equip children and teachers with adequate skills to prevent violence and regularly report cases through official complaint mechanisms.

25. The reform of the justice system will focus on enabling greater access to child-friendly justice by modelling alternative approaches to detention (diversion schemes) and mediation. UNICEF will support the establishment of reintegration services at local level, and the provision of guidance and standards for judges and prosecutors to apply diversion measures. Evidence-based advocacy is expected to leverage funds at subnational level, including for setting up child-friendly interviewing rooms and practices for child offenders, victims and witnesses of crimes.

26. This programme component will continue to promote an inclusive school and preschool environment by working towards quality teaching and learning outcomes for the

most vulnerable children, including children with disabilities, and the application of child-friendly schools standards. UNICEF will further promote the identification and reintegration of out-of-school children. Modelling at community level will demonstrate viable options for inclusion and reintegration of Roma children into the education system. Communication for social change will promote the value of education in Roma communities and contribute to breaking stereotypes and to changing social norms. UNICEF will advance its collaboration with the Ministries of Education and Finance in order to extend the inclusive-education funding formula to benefit all vulnerable children, in addition to its current coverage of children with disabilities.

27. Investment for improved child survival, growth and development will continue. This component will strengthen the role of home-visiting nurses, expanding it beyond child health and growth to addressing child development and linking families with referral systems and other social services. Current efforts to improve the national vaccine procurement system will be combined with supporting the expansion of immunization coverage. Further legislative amendments will seek the inclusion of all provisions of the International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes in national legislation. UNICEF will give special attention to maternal and child nutrition, reduction of iron and folic acid deficiencies among pregnant women and children, and the nutrition of adolescents. Ongoing support to youth-friendly health services will promote a shift from the current financing method based on the number of youth residing in the catchment area to one based on performance. It will also expand the outreach to most-at-risk adolescents, focusing especially on gender-responsive adolescent health and healthy behaviour.

28. The country programme, complementing the efforts of financial institutions, will support the assessment of national poverty alleviation programmes, focusing on child-related benefits and allowances. UNICEF will promote expanded coverage of social protection measures and the introduction of simplified administrative procedures. In striving to increase outreach, identification and provision of assistance to vulnerable families with children, UNICEF will initiate the modelling of a single registry at a selected district level to cover social assistance, education and health services. Innovative approaches to cash benefits and equity-based targeting of social services will be sought as well.

Social change for child rights

29. This programme component will aim at improving the functions and capacities of key duty bearers, so that Moldovan society deepens its knowledge on and fulfils its obligations towards child rights. The programme will also work on empowering children and adolescents, increasing their engagement and ability to claim their rights. Additionally, this component will seek to influence social norms to eliminate violence, stigma and discrimination.

30. In promoting duty bearers' obligations, the programme will strengthen the capacities of the national human rights institutions and civil society organizations in monitoring child rights. The National Council on Child Rights Protection will be strengthened to enhance its capability for cross-sectoral coordination of key child-related strategies and to address in a timely manner emerging child rights issues. UNICEF will support the media's capacity in active and ethical reporting on child rights, and it will work with the private sector to positively change business behaviour and practices to maximize positive outcomes for the most vulnerable children.

31. Caregivers' engagement, capacities and skills will be improved, enabling them to take greater responsibility for appropriate childcare, including the health, development, education and protection of children. In selected districts, UNICEF will provide technical advice on improving caregivers' capacities to stimulate young children and to engage in positive child-rearing. These efforts will promote greater interaction with adolescents, encouraging them to adopt a healthy lifestyle and positive behaviour. Stronger involvement of caregivers in school management committees, including in developing school improvement plans and monitoring school performance, will be a priority.

32. This programme component will support the mandatory establishment of youth councils at the local level in order to foster greater adolescent and youth participation in decision-making and social life and to empower adolescents to become agents of social change. It will introduce innovative approaches for their participation. UNICEF will support modelling and testing a new cross-sectoral approach to the work of youth councils in selected communities, combined with facilitating local public authorities' engagement with, and financing of, youth councils.

33. This component will work towards greater social inclusion of the most vulnerable groups of children by demonstrating models of comprehensive interventions at the local level. UNICEF technical expertise will enable the alignment of child disability criteria of Moldova with the international methodology for classifying disability. It will promote psychosocial support services for children left behind, and improve harmonization of data collection between health, child protection and education systems. Capacities for developing early detection and early intervention services for children with disabilities and developmental delays will be strengthened in selected districts. To counter the impact of parent migration and family separation on child well-being, the programme will promote the enforcement of guardianship measures and build parents' awareness of the challenges faced by children left behind.

Programme effectiveness

34. The country programme will be efficiently coordinated and managed to systematically uphold programme quality standards and achieve results. Relevant expertise, tools, and guidance and resources will be made available to partners and stakeholders to allow quality design and efficient implementation of joint projects and activities. The drive for effective communication, advocacy and partnerships will be informed by high-level expertise and capacity-building of stakeholders, including in programme planning, monitoring and efficient implementation.

35. Knowledge generation will provide the necessary evidence and data, while knowledge management will safeguard the optimal use of UNICEF resources through effective and efficient programming and implementation. The country programme will focus on better interconnectedness and exchange of information among various government systems and platforms. UNICEF will also contribute to better data collection on the left bank of the Nistru River. Through policy dialogue and technical expertise, UNICEF will contribute to the implementation of reforms and the development of the National Development Strategy, "Moldova 2030", to ensure the prominence of child-focused priorities.

36. The country programme will use balanced multi-pronged strategies to reach tangible results for children. Advocacy will focus on the needs of the most vulnerable children and reach out to key duty bearers among all populations and ethnicities in Moldova, including in southern, eastern, and Roma-populated parts of the country — where more child deprivations are manifested. Engagement with the media will continue through traditional

channels, and will be strengthened through broadcast and social media, as well as through the direct engagement of adolescents. UNICEF will continue to build the media's awareness and promote increased ethical reporting on child rights. Communication for behaviour and social change will use the most recent regional and global evidence and develop specific strategies relevant to the Moldovan context to address deeply rooted social norms affecting children.

37. Capacity development of State agencies and civil society will continue to focus on both strategic planning and on building awareness of child rights, aiming to ensure better monitoring and effective, timely and coordinated actions of key stakeholders in addressing child rights violations, especially at the local level. Capacities of local public authorities will be enhanced to prioritize local-level financing of services for children. UNICEF will support capacity-building efforts related to disaster risk reduction so that children are prioritized in all interventions.

38. Strengthening partnerships and leveraging resources for children will remain a key goal of the country programme, building on current results and aiming to ensure additional funding from the State and donors in support of country programme priorities. To further enhance capacities in national child rights monitoring, UNICEF will continue its cooperation with the Child Rights Ombudsperson, the National Council on Child Rights Protection, the Bureau of Interethnic Relations, and the Council on the Prevention and Elimination of Discrimination. UNICEF will maintain strong partnerships with the following ministries: Labour, Social Protection and Family; Youth and Sports; Education; Justice; and Health. The availability of disaggregated data to monitor the rights of children will be further enhanced through technical advice given to the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) and key line ministries to improve data collection tools and systems.

39. Continuous collaboration with donors, strengthened horizontal cooperation within the region, and UNICEF work within the United Nations system will contribute to the achievement of country programme outcomes. This will be accomplished through the creation of greater synergies, joint programming around a common human rights agenda, and adequate external financing of programme components. The partnership with international financial institutions will be further developed, especially around promoting social protection floors, complementing efforts on school optimization and child poverty reduction.

40. UNICEF will strengthen its partnership with the media and will engage adolescents in addressing harmful social norms and beliefs. Strong partnership with local civil society organizations will be fostered to model community-based services, including on the left bank of the Nistru River. Close partnership with academia will help to ensure the sustainability of capacity-building efforts, including through curricula updates for pre- and in-service training of professionals. Building strong partnership with the private sector will be a high priority for the country programme.

Summary budget table

Programme component	*(In thousands of United States dollars)*		
	Regular resources	*Other resources*	*Total*
Equitable, child-sensitive systems and services	2 525	8 400	10 925
Social change for child rights	1 300	4 000	5 300
Programme effectiveness	750	533	1 283
Total	**4 575**	**12 933**	**17 508**

Programme and risk management

41. This CPD outlines UNICEF contributions to national results and serves as the primary unit of accountability to the Executive Board for results alignment and resources assigned to the programme at country level. The accountabilities of managers at country, regional and headquarters levels with respect to country programmes are prescribed in the organization's programme and operations policies. The programme of cooperation with the Government of the Republic of Moldova will be implemented in line with UNDAF and Delivering as One mechanisms, and will ensure compliance with UNICEF policies and procedures and the Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers (HACT).

42. The feasibility of the country programme relies on key assumptions, including political stability, political will to advance reforms, strengthened accountability frameworks, progressive stabilization of the economy, availability of adequate resources for implementation, and modelling of innovations.

43. Critical risks include the following: deterioration of the political and economic situation — which could lead to increased poverty — the stagnation of reforms, continuous out-migration of skilled professionals, lack of donor attention to social areas of work, and potential environmental emergencies. Risk mitigation measures will include effective and optimal management of available financial resources, leveraging partner resources for children, the strong compliance of staff and partners with HACT rules, and well-developed early warning and response mechanisms in the office's management and business continuity plans that enable a high degree of flexibility to respond to emergencies.

Monitoring and evaluation

44. Progress will be monitored in accordance with established indicators and targets, as outlined in the annex, and by using reliable means of verification. Sources of information will include the NBS, line ministries' reports and thematic statistical publications. Additional data needs will be identified and addressed through surveys and other evidence-generating assessments. Further capacity-building of the NBS and other relevant authorities will improve the availability, validity, and reliability of disaggregated data.

45. The programme of cooperation will enable regularly monitoring of the situation of children in Moldova and the identification of key barriers and bottlenecks to the progressive

realization of the rights of all children. UNICEF will focus on supporting the monitoring and report on progress in implementing the concluding observations and recommendations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, and on strengthening the capacities of national institutions.

46. The Prioritized Research, Impact-Monitoring and Evaluation (PRIME) system and the costed evaluation plan for this country programme will define the priority monitoring, research and evaluation needs for implementation of the programme, including the results of new models of services for children at the local level. Evaluation efforts will also focus on the results achieved by the national strategies on inclusive education and on child protection.

Annex

Results and resources framework

Moldova – UNICEF country programme of cooperation, 2018–2022

Convention on the Rights of the Child: Articles 2-7, 9, 11-21, 23-29, 31, 32, 34-37, 39- 41. **Sustainable Development Goals:** 1–4, 10 and 16. **National priorities:** National Development Strategy "Moldova 2020", Child Protection Strategy 2014–2020, Action Plan to support the Roma population 2016–2020, Strategy for Development of Education for All 2011–2020, National Strategy on Public Health 2014–2020
UNDAF (2018–2022) outcomes involving UNICEF, and outcome indicators measuring change that includes UNICEF contribution: Outcome 1: The people of Moldova, in particular the most vulnerable, demand and benefit from democratic, transparent and accountable governance, gender-sensitive, human rights- and evidence-based public policies, equitable services, and efficient, effective and responsive public institutions. **Indicators:** 1.3 Implementation rate of recommendations of human rights treaty bodies 1.6 Social distance (non-acceptance) with regard to groups vulnerable to discrimination 1.7 The justice system comprises efficient child-friendly and gender-sensitive mechanisms ensuring that survivors of all forms of violence have de facto access to justice, and perpetrators are held accountable Outcome 4: The people of Moldova, in particular the most vulnerable, demand and benefit from gender-sensitive and human rights-based, inclusive, effective and equitable education, health and social policies and services. **Indicators:** 4.1 Ratio between children with disabilities in regular schools and in special schools 4.3 DTP3 vaccination coverage rate 4.5 Adolescent birth rate per 1,000 women in the age group 15–19 years old 4.6 Proportion of households receiving Social Aid benefits 4.7 Proportion of women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to physical, sexual or psychological violence by an intimate partner in the previous 12 months
Related draft UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2018-2021 Goal Areas:[1] 1, 2, 3 and 5

[1] The final version will be presented to the UNICEF Executive Board for approval at its second regular session of 2017.

UNICEF outcomes	*Key progress indicators, baselines (B) and targets (T)*	*Means of verification*	*Indicative country programme outputs*	*Major partners, partnership frameworks*	*Indicative resources by country programme outcome, regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)*		
					RR	*OR*	*Total*
1. Equitable, child-sensitive systems and services By 2022, Moldova national systems and services are more inclusive, able to protect the rights of children, and respond to the needs of the most vulnerable children[2] in an equitable way	**(a) Percentage of districts that fully monitor, identify, assist, and report on, vulnerable children through the intersectoral mechanism[3] for prevention and protection of children from violence, abuse, neglect, exploitation and trafficking** B: Zero districts address all four elements (monitor, identify, assist and report) (2017) T: 30% of districts	Ministry of Health (MoH), Ministry of Education (MoE), Ministry of Labour, Social Protection and Family (MLSPF), Ministry of Justice (MoJ), Ministry of Internal Affairs (MoIA), National Legal Aid Council and Local Public Authorities (LPAs) records	By 2022, national stakeholders have functional mechanisms, capacities and skills to prevent and protect children against discrimination, exploitation and violence, and prevent abandonment, family separation and neglect, as per the best interests of the child By 2022, justice system authorities and related support services have institutionalized procedures and practices to protect and reintegrate children in contact with the law By 2022, schools and preschools have capacity to apply and monitor quality teaching and learning and are able to address violence, dropout and absenteeism By 2022, the health system has improved capacity to generate demand and provide quality maternal and newborn, child and adolescent health services, including outreach, and to advise caregivers supporting child care, growth and development By 2022, the social protection	MoH, MoE, MLSPF, MoJ, State Chancellery, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Economy, LPAs, United Nations agencies, World Bank	2 525	8 400	10 925
	(b) Gross enrolment rate in pre-primary education B: Total 85%, urban 105%, rural 73% (2015) T: Total 90%, urban 100%, rural 78%	National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), MoE records					
	(c) Lower-secondary education completion rate B: 83% boys 84 %, girls 82%, urban 95%, rural 76% (2015/2016 school year) T: 90% boys 90%, girls 90%, urban 95%, rural 85%	NBS, MoE records					

[2] Child victims of violence, children in conflict with the law, out-of-school children, children with disabilities

[3] Institutions and professionals from child protection, education, health and social protection systems; parents, caregivers and communities; media

UNICEF outcomes	*Key progress indicators, baselines (B) and targets (T)*	*Means of verification*	*Indicative country programme outputs*	*Major partners, partnership frameworks*	*Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)*		
					RR	*OR*	*Total*
	(d) Percentage of infants monitored in accordance with child care, growth and development standards, including home visiting[4] B: 74% (2012) Children from vulnerable families: 48% T: 85% Target for children from vulnerable families: 65%	MoH records	system and related mechanisms have the capacity to reach the most deprived families with children, and are able to deliver equitable services and financial assistance				
	(e) Impact of child benefits/ Social Aid on child poverty B: 2 percentage points' reduction of child poverty after receiving child benefits/ Social Aid (2014) T: 4 percentage points	NBS, MLSPF records, UNICEF studies					
2. Social change for child rights By 2022, Moldovan society has better knowledge about child rights and progressively fulfils its obligations, effectively supporting social outcomes for children, and the empowerment of the most vulnerable children and adolescents to claim their rights.	**(a) Percentage of caregivers in selected districts who accept children with disabilities in regular preschools/ schools** B: preschools 19%, schools 17% (2013) T: 30% each	UNICEF studies	By 2022, relevant duty bearers have the required capacities and skills to fulfil their obligations for the progressive realization of child rights. By 2022, caregivers in selected districts have the capacity and skills to take responsibility for child care, health, development, education and protection, and encourage and practise positive behaviour. By 2022, adolescents are empowered, have opportunities to claim and support the realization	MoH, MoE, MLSPF, Ministry of Youth and Sport, MoJ, Bureau for Inter-Ethnic Relations, LPAs, Youth councils, United Nations agencies, NGOs, Office of the Ombudsperson	1 300	4 000	5 300
	(b) Proportion of vulnerable pregnant mothers using social protection mechanisms[5] B: 0% (2016) T: 30%	MoH, MLSPF records					
	(c) Percentage of caregivers	NBS, MoJ records,					

[4] Adjusted global standard indicator: Newborns receiving postnatal care within two days of birth.
[5] Social benefits, psychosocial counselling, supervision and assistance by intersectoral mechanism.

UNICEF outcomes	*Key progress indicators, baselines (B) and targets (T)*	*Means of verification*	*Indicative country programme outputs*	*Major partners, partnership frameworks*	*Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)*		
					RR	*OR*	*Total*
	in selected districts applying positive parenting practices B: 22% of children aged 2-14 experienced positive discipline methods (2012 MICS as a proxy indicator) T: 50% of children experience positive discipline methods	UNICEF studies	of child rights, and are able to adopt positive and healthy behaviours. By 2022, comprehensive models exist involving different national entities to address the challenges in the progressive realization of the rights of the most vulnerable children, in a sustainable manner	/			
	(d) Percentage of adolescents reporting that their views are listened to and taken seriously (always, most of the time, and sometimes) at local (rayon) and central level B: rayon level 38%, central level 30% (2013) T: 50%, 40%	Council of Europe measurements, UNICEF studies					
	(e) Proportion of children with disabilities supported through cross-sectoral coordination mechanism in targeted districts B: 0% (2016) T: 30%	MoH, MoE, MLSPF, MoJ, LPAs records					
3. Programme effectiveness The country programme is efficiently designed, coordinated, managed and supported to meet quality programming standards in achieving results for children.	**(a) Percentage of management and programme priorities indicators meeting the scorecard benchmarks** B: end-2017 data (Key Performance Indicators) T: 100%		**Output 10:** UNICEF partners and staff are provided guidance, tools and resources to effectively design and manage programmes. **Output 11:** UNICEF partners and staff have effective tools, guidance and resources for more effective communication on child rights with key stakeholders. **Output 12:** UNICEF partners and staff have latest tools, guidance		750	533	1 283

UNICEF outcomes	*Key progress indicators, baselines (B) and targets (T)*	*Means of verification*	*Indicative country programme outputs*	*Major partners, partnership frameworks*	*Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)*		
					RR	*OR*	*Total*
			and resources for effective advocacy and partnerships on child rights issues with key stakeholders **Output 13:** Strategies to address cross-cutting issues related to child rights are developed and applied.				
Total resources					**4 575**	**12 933**	**17 508**